sister-state relationship with the US State of New Jersey in the areas of economic development, scientific research, tourism, culture etc. From the past experience with such proposals and looking at the areas of interest, it was suggested to the Andhra Pradesh Government to enter into an economic relationship with New Jersey with the participation of chambers of commerce etc. A modified proposal is awaited.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Land Under Fruit, Fodder and Fuel. Plantation in Orissa

2299. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land in Orissa brought under plantation of fruit, fodder and feul;

(b) whether Government propose to bring additional hectare of land under fruit, fodder and feul plantation;

(c) whether the above programme was proposed under compact area plantation programme; and

(d) if so, the step taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) During the VHIPlan and first two years of the IXPlan ending 1998-99, an area of 1.74 lakh hectares have been brought under fruit tree plantation in Orissa through horticultural development programmes funded by the Central and State Government. Under the 50% Centrally sponsored area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Project scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, fodder and fuel wood plantation has been raised in an area of 32,469 hectares of degrated forest land during the same period. Under this scheme it is proposed to afforest 16,665 hectares of degraded forests during the IXPlan. An area of 30000 hectares are proposed to be brought under fruit plants during 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Out of 30,000 hectares proposed to be brought under fruit plants during 1999-2000, an area of 19410 hectares are proposed to be covered under compact area plantation programme.

Expansion of Wheat and Paddy Cultivation

2300. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent saleable surplus of wheat in the country comes from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and 80 per cent saleable surplus of paddy also comes from four States;

(b) whether it is a fact that there can be a good crop of paddy in Eastern regions; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government for expanding the cultivation activities of paddy and wheat in other regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Market arrivals of wheat from three states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, as a percentage of all India arriavals, averaged 59.4% for the years 1995-96 to 1998-99. Likewise the market arriavals of paddy from four states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, as a percentage of all India arrivals, of paddy, averaged 81.1% for the years 1994-95 to 1997-98.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To increase the production and productivity of paddy/wheat in other regions, the Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development programmes in Rice/Wheat. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations on farm holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.